IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Charles M. FISH

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Title : SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATED COPYING FROM A PERSONAL VIDEO RECORDER

Examiner : Gigi L. DUBASKY

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Amendment/Response Under 37 CFR 1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 26, 2010, kindly amend the subject application as follows.

A Listing of Claims appears on page 2 of this paper.

The Remarks start on page 12 of this paper.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED). In ~~a system~~ an assembly including a digital video recorder receiving and recording a program and having a digital program output generating a digital signal corresponding to said program and a command output generating a command signal, an analog video recorder and a digitizer ~~assembly~~ system separate from said digital video recorder and said analog video recorder, a method for automated copying from said digital video recorder, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a command signal by said digital video recorder to said analog video recorder instructing the analog video recorder to start recording;

transmitting a content signal from the digital video recorder, wherein the content signal is an analog signal containing said program;

intercepting said command signal and said content signal by said digitizer ~~assembly~~ system;

transmitting said content signal by said digitizer to said analog video recorder;

in response to said command signal, digitizing the content signal to create a digital representation of the program; and

storing the digital representation by said digitizer assembly.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the digital representation over a network.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

sharing the digital representation in a peer-to-peer network configuration.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

recording the digital representation onto a digital storage medium.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 4 wherein the recording is performed on a transportable digital storage medium.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of compressing the digital representation and storing the compressed digital representation.

7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED). A system for automatically creating a digitized copy of a recorded program from a separate digital video recorder, said digital video recorder

generating a control signal to a separate external device indicating the commencement or conclusion of playback of said recorded program, said digital video recorder selectively outputting said recorded program as an output signal including a respective analog video component and an analog audio component, the system comprising:

a digitizer having an analog-to-digital video converter [[for]] receiving and digitizing the analog video component to create a digitized video signal [[;]], an analog-to-digital audio converter [[for]] receiving and digitizing the analog audio component to create at least one digitized audio signal and an analog output outputting said analog video and audio components, and [[;]] a receiver for intercepting said control signal from the digital video recorder, and in response to said control signal, causing said audio and video converters to activate thereby generating said digitized video and audio signals ; and

a digital storage device for storing the digitized video signal and the digitized audio signal.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The system of claim 12 further comprising a first compression unit that compresses the digitized video signal to produce a compressed digitized video signal, and a second compression unit for compressing the digitized audio signal to produce a compressed digitized audio signal.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The system of claim 13, wherein the first compression unit is computer based software utilizing at least one video compression algorithm.

16. (ORIGINAL). The system of claim 15, wherein the computer based software is augmented by an electronic circuit that accelerates the at least one video compression algorithm.

17. (ORIGINAL). The system of claim 12, further comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting the digitized video signal and the digitized audio signal.

18. (ORIGINAL). The computer system of claim 12, further comprising:

a network interface subsystem for sharing the digitized video signal and the digitized audio signal with other computer systems on a computer network.

19. (ORIGINAL). The system of claim 18 wherein the network interface subsystem is a client-server computer network.

20. (ORIGINAL). The system of claim 18 wherein the network interface subsystem is a peer-to-peer network configuration.

21. (ORIGINAL). The system of claim 12 further comprising:

a storage system with removable medium for storing the digitized video signal and the digitized audio signal on a write-once removable medium.

22. (ORIGINAL). The system of claim 12 further comprising:

a storage system adapted for use with a removable medium for storing the digitized video signal and the digitized audio signal on a rewritable removable medium.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED). A method for automated copying of content from a digital video recorder, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a_command signal by the digital video recorder wherein the command signal is indicative of the initiation of a playback of content from the digital video recorder, said command signal being generated for the control of an analog video recorder;

intercepting said command signal and a video signal from the digital video recorder by a digitizing device that is separate from said digital video recorder and said analog video recorder, wherein the video signal is an analog signal containing the content and wherein the analog signal contains a video component;

digitizing the video component signal by the digitizing device to create a digitized version of the content;

digitizing the information; ~~and~~

storing the video component and the digitized information; and

transmitting said video signal to said analog video recorder.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the digitized video component and the digitized information over a network.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

sharing the digitized video component and the digitized information by the digitizing device in a peer-to-peer network configuration.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

recording the digitized video component and the digitized information onto a transportable digital storage medium.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 26 wherein said digital storage media is an optical media.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED). A method for automated copying of a playback of content stored on a digital video recorder, said digital video recorder generating a command signal indicative of at least one of commencement and termination of playback of said content in order to cause a remote analog video recorder to record said content on an analog recording media, the method comprising the steps of:

intercepting said command signal by a digitizing device, said digitizing device being separate from said digital video recorder and said analog video recorder;

intercepting a video signal from the digital video recorder to the analog video recorder by the digitizing device, wherein the video signal is an analog signal containing the content and wherein the analog signal contains an audio component and a video component;

digitizing the video component of the content by said digitizing device to create a digitized video component;

digitizing the audio component of the playback to create a digitized audio component; ~~and~~

storing the digitized video and audio components; and

transmitting said video signal to said remote analog video recorder.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 28 wherein said content includes an imbedded data subcomponent formed of data related to the playback, further comprising digitizing said subcomponent.

31. (ORIGINAL). The method of claim 30 wherein said data subcomponent is imbedded in said video component.

32. (ORIGINAL). The method of claim 31 wherein said data component is encoded within a vertical blanking interval of said video component.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 30 further comprising storing said digitized data together with said digitized video and audio components.

35. (ORIGINAL). The method of claim 28 wherein said data component is disposed within a blanking interval of the video component.

36. (ORIGINAL). The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:
transmitting the digitized video and audio components over a network.

37. (ORIGINAL). The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:
sharing the video and audio subcomponents in a peer-to-peer network configuration.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:
recording the video and audio subcomponents onto a transportable digital storage medium.

39. (ORIGINAL). The method of claim 38 wherein the transportable digital storage medium is an optical disc.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 32 wherein said video signal is an analog signal, further comprising digitizing said signal, compressing the digitized signal and storing the compressed signal.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 32 wherein said video_signal is an encoded digital signal, further comprising decoding said digital signal and storing the decoded signal.

43. (PREVIOUS PRESENTED). The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said subsystem further includes a recording member that records said digitized version on a digital media.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). A system for recording content on in a digital format for distribution comprising:

a digital personal recorder;

an analog video recorder separated from said digital video recorder; and

a digitizer separate from said digital personal video recorder and said analog video recorder;

wherein said personal video recorder receives content and a user command to cause said content to be recorded by said analog video recorder on an analog media, said personal video recorder further selectively transmitting a record command and a video signal containing said content to said analog video recorder; and

wherein said digitizer includes a command receiver intercepting said record command and said video signal, said digizer further converting said video signal in response to said record command and converting said video signal into a digital format and recording_said video signal in said digital format in a digital memory.

45 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The system of claim 44 wherein the video signal includes an analog video and an analog audio component and said digitizer converts said analog audio and video components into corresponding digital audio and video components and to store said components.

46 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The system of claim 45 wherein said digitizer includes a digital recorder for recording said digital component on a digital recording media.

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Non-Final Office Action of October 26, 2010. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested. Claims 1-6, 12-13, 15-28, 30-32, 34-39 and 41-46 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 23, 28 and 41-44 are currently amended. Claims 1, 12, 23, 28 and 44 are independent claims.

Briefly, the present invention pertains to personal video recorders (PVRs) that receive and, optionally, store a video program. More particularly, the invention pertains to a digital video recorder that optionally generates a command to a video cassette recorder connected to the digital video recorder to allow analog recordation of the program. The command is generated in response to an input from a user. A digitizing device is provided which intercepts this command and then, as a video content is being delivered to the video cassette recorder as an analog video signal, the video signal is intercepted by a digitizing device. The digitizing device then renders the analog signal into a corresponding digital video signal and optionally, stores it. The digital video signal can be recorded to a DVD or CD disc, shared with others using a network, etc. Because the digitizing device intercepts the command from the digital video recorder, the whole operation can be performed automatically. Similarly, when the program is completed, the recording of the digital signal is stopped.

In summary, the present invention contains three components: a digital video recorder, an analog video recorder (VCR) and a digitizer. These three components cooperate to perform the functionality just described.

The applicant would like to thank the examiner and her supervisor for the courtesy extended at the interview of March 10, 2011. At the interview, the prior art was discussed including Lim and Rao and it was pointed out by the applicant that the references do not disclose a digitizer as shown in Fig.2. The claims have been amended to define the invention more clearly.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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